GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1551
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
IRREGULARITIES IN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM
Baxla Shri Joachim;Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by UNESCO`s International Institute for Educational Planning has revealed that various shades of corruption afflict the Indian education system as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 13, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings, including teachers`absenteeism?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) Central Government has seen a Report published in 2007 by UNESCO/International Institute of Educational Planning (HEP) entitled `Corrupt Schools, Corrupt Universities; what can be done?` This report is not India specific and highlights the issues related to corruption in education and the consequent loss to the system in terms of its advers. effect on access, equity and quality, in developed and developing countries around the world. The report includes references to teacher absenteeism and private tuitions by teachers, etc. These references have been made on the basis of a number of studies undertaken by different researchers during the last five years or so and also from the press reports appearing from time to time. The Report also suggests strategies to reduce corruption and improve governance in education.

(c) & (d) Central Government is continuously engaged, through consultations with State Governments and apex bodies such as University Grants Commission, the Central Board of Secondary Education and others, in eliminating malpractices in the educational system. Government of India has also commissioned an independent study to measure student and teacher attendance in select major States. Preliminary data from this study has shown that average teacher attendance in primary and upper primary schools is about 80%. Government also recognizes that eliminating the kinds of malpractices mentioned in the UNESCO/IIEP Report will require not only the continuous and committed participation of State Governments but also increased public awareness, and greater transparency and accountability in the public bodies,